

Today, we offer our support and comfort to the students who were injured in this terrible accident. We will continue to pray for their full and speedy recovery.

Additionally, we must recognize the brave members of the local fire departments and emergency personnel, as well as the Ocean Isle Beach citizens who responded to the fire and called for help.

Again, I want to thank my colleague and long-time friend Congressman JIM CLYBURN for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, more than 600 people gathered at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls OH, to mourn the loss of Allison Walden, 19, a 2006 graduate of Chagrin Falls High School and the daughter of Terry and Diane Walden of Chagrin Falls.

Allison was one of seven students to die in the tragic beach house fire in North Carolina.

Her father, Terry, said she was a wonderful girl and full of life. She had a scholarship to University of South Carolina, where she was a sophomore studying pre-med and a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She had planned to return to her beloved Chagrin Falls after graduation and study anesthesiology at Case Western Reserve University.

This senseless fire that took the lives of seven wonderful young people capped a very difficult year for the Walden family.

Their son, Greg, a 2005 Chagrin Falls graduate, is a student at Virginia Tech and was there in April when a deranged student shot up the campus, killing 33 people. Fortunately, Greg, an honors engineering student, was unharmed in that horrific attack. I can't imagine as a parent going through that, and then losing your only daughter just five months later in another tragedy. It is just unspeakably cruel.

As their father said, "What is the chance that out of all the schools in the country that our children would go where tragic events unfold?"

On behalf of the 14th Congressional District, my sympathies go to the Walden family on their horrible loss, and may they find comfort in their family, friends, faith and community.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 728.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF DEVASTATING FLOODING THAT OCCURRED IN OHIO

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 728) expressing the support and sympathy of the House of

Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the devastating flooding that occurred across many parts of Ohio in August 2007 and commending the communities, volunteer organizations, churches and emergency response agencies for their continuing work to restore the affected areas across the state.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 728

Whereas heavy rainstorms brought severe flooding to Ohio and the upper Midwest over the week of August 19, 2007;

Whereas, in many parts of Ohio, this was the worst flood since 1913 with nearly 15 inches of rain in some areas;

Whereas the record storms and flooding were responsible for up to 18 deaths across parts of the upper Midwest—some of these in Ohio;

Whereas over 500 citizens were forced to flee their homes and businesses and many hundreds of homes and businesses were damaged;

Whereas, on August 21, 2007, Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Van Wert and Wyandot counties made initial local emergency declaration;

Whereas, on August 22, 2007, Governor Ted Strickland issued a State disaster declaration for Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot and Van Wert Counties;

Whereas, on August 27, 2007, President George W. Bush issued a Federal disaster declaration for Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland and Wyandot Counties and later added Hardin and Seneca Counties; and

Whereas Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Indiana also experienced serious, storms, flooding and tornadoes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support and profoundest sympathy for the victims of the devastating flooding that occurred across much of Ohio and the surrounding region in August 2007;

(2) conveys its gratitude to the local, State and Federal officials and emergency personnel who responded to this emergency and continue working to restore normalcy in the affected counties;

(3) thanks the many volunteers, charitable organizations, business and individual donors, churches and religious organizations for their generosity in responding to this crisis; and

(4) commends the people of Ohio for their indomitable spirit and for the grace and magnanimity with which they have supported one another during the flooding and continuing recovery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Res. 728, which is a bill that expresses the support and sympathy of the House of Representatives and the people of the United States for the victims of the devastating floods that swept across Ohio in August of 2007.

H. Res. 728, which has 51 cosponsors, was introduced by my friend, Representative Jim Jordan, on October 10, 2007. H. Res. 728 was reported from the Oversight Committee on October 23, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, during the week of August 19, 2007, Ohio received over 15 inches of rain in a violent storm that swept across the State. Firefighters and volunteers from that State performed great acts of heroism in rescuing people from life-threatening conditions.

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The storm caused major flooding that damaged many homes and businesses, and the water forced at least 500 families from their homes in several northern Ohio towns.

Governor Ted Strickland of Ohio declared states of emergency in nine counties in northwest and north central Ohio. This was, indeed, the worst flooding for Ohio since 1913.

I now rise in support of the victims in this disaster and to commend the State, local and Federal officials and emergency personnel for their response to this crisis situation.

I commend my colleague, Representative JORDAN, for seeking to express support and sympathy for the Ohio flood victims.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of this resolution. Obviously, as a result of these devastating floods this summer, we had eight counties that were declared disaster counties in our State, 4½ of those counties I had the privilege of representing. The other 3½ counties were represented by our late friend, Congressman Paul Gillmor.

I want to commend Congressman Gillmor's staff for the help of Paul, of course, when he was with us, and then his staff for the great assistance they provided our office and others as we worked through this.

I also just want to take a moment to thank those local leaders, both our police, our fire, our EMS people, our local public officials and our State public officials who did just an outstanding job and also commend our Federal officials. FEMA was there in Ohio, the leaders were there, Director Paulison, as well as Mr. Preston with the SBA, and then they have been in Ohio for several months serving families and individuals and local governments who were devastated by these floods.

The thing, I guess, that really stands out for me, in the midst of this devastation, it was so neat to see how communities come together, how people work together and all kinds of acts of kindness from family member to family member and from neighbor to neighbor and community to community. It was amazing to see what takes place when devastation hits an area.

The resolution just expresses our commendation for those individuals, those local officials, those families, those people in west central and north central Ohio who did such an outstanding job dealing with the devastation that took place.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend and colleague, Ms. MARCY KAPTUR from Ohio, for as much time as she may consume.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Thank you distinguished Chairman LYNCH, and my dear friend from our delegation Congressman JIM JORDAN.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise in support of House Resolution 728, which speaks to the issue of the flooding throughout Ohio in August of this year.

Congressman JORDAN and I stood shoulder to shoulder with the late Congressman Paul Gillmor in Findlay to survey the devastating 100-year flood level. This flooding ripped through the heart of many small towns in northwest Ohio, burying our communities in feet of mud and water while washing away the dreams of so many today.

We know there are probably over \$100 million worth of damages. We owe so much to all the emergency workers—to the fire, to the police, to the local officials like Mayor Iriti, who I thought, did an outstanding job—for trying to address this situation, which wasn't any of their fault or our fault. You had 15 inches of rain within 24 hours; and this flood truly was different.

Instead of simply devastating our community, the flood also sent a shock wave through all of us on the challenge of fresh water management that our region, our very flat region, faces.

It is ironic that in Ohio we were talking about too much water at a time when, now, Georgia and the southeastern States are experiencing record droughts. We know in our region the status quo is not acceptable. We were very pleased that Secretary Chertoff joined us and offered the continuing help of FEMA to address the damage from these floods in August. We knew that our region had potential water management problems. But we never thought they would come now so quickly. We had launched a watershed management partnership in the Western Lake Erie Basin to handle the growing levels of storm water runoff.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have driven forward a remarkable partnership that is unique in its scope any-

where in the country for what it is trying to accomplish. At the center of this assessment is the understanding that we must better manage our fresh water asset for the future.

It is our competitive advantage, without question, in the Great Lakes States. We have been buffeted in our region by globalization, but we will not give up our greatest asset. We know we must manage it with a comprehensive basinwide solution.

I think this flooding was a real clarion call to people in our region. We saw the levels of damage and now having to remediate after the fact. But had we had in place structures and systems to handle this level of water, we would not have had the level of damage that we experienced. We know that the level of rainfall was extraordinarily large, but the point is, we were not properly prepared for it, and we have now had this clarion call.

We were very fortunate that the loss of life was minimized, but, nonetheless, people are still digging out. I think this resolution is a very important step forward as we try to handle this precious global asset of fresh water in our region in a much, much wiser way so that we can avoid the flooding of the future.

Even Marathon Oil had eight feet of water in its corporate headquarters in Findlay, Ohio. Business leaders, the chamber, a broad band of public officials and private sector leadership across the region recognize we can't go through this again. We have to think about dry dams. We have to think of reservoirs. We have to think of ways to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage and put those dollars to work avoiding that kind of disaster in the future.

In recognizing all of those who helped to handle this enormous tragedy that befell our area, we also look to the future and the fact that we have the Western Lake Erie Basin partnership as a building block toward the future in order to make the future better than the past and to learn the lessons that history has now taught us.

I am very pleased to join my colleagues here today, Congressman LYNCH, who has taken such great leadership on this measure. We, in Ohio, appreciate the response of all the emergency personnel who did so very much, and to the people who suffered, and also to Congressman JIM JORDAN for bringing this to the floor today. We are joined hand in hand as we move forward together in northern Ohio to better manage our fresh water asset for future generations.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Let me, too, just thank Congressman LYNCH and Congresswoman KAPTUR. Congresswoman KAPTUR has been right at the front of looking at this in a comprehensive way, and we appreciate that. She talked about our mayors both in Findlay and Shelby, Ohio, who have done so much work and who are looking at this overall approach.

Also, we talked about our local officials. I don't know if we mentioned our two U.S. Senators who have been very helpful in this effort as well, looking at this in a broad way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

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BOSTON RED SOX VICTORY IN 2007 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 782) expressing the sense of the House with respect to the Boston Red Sox victory in the 2007 Major League Baseball World Series.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 782

Whereas in the early moments of October 29, 2007, the Boston Red Sox won their second World Series title in four seasons by besting the Colorado Rockies in just four games;

Whereas the Red Sox won their seventh world title in the 107-year history of the storied franchise;

Whereas the 2007 Red Sox World Champion team epitomized sportsmanship, selfless play, team spirit, determination, and heart in the course of winning 96 games in the regular season, winning the American League East Division Championship;

Whereas Josh Beckett, the major league's only 20-game winner in the 2007 regular season, cemented his place as one of the greatest post-season pitchers of all time, winning four games in the playoffs, including a dominating performance in Game One of the World Series, and keeping the hopes of Red Sox Nation alive by overpowering the Cleveland Indians in Game 5 of the American League Championship series when the team was down 3 games to 1;

Whereas Curt Schilling proved once again his greatness as a post-season pitcher by winning Game 2 of the World Series;

Whereas rookie sensation Daisuke Matsuzaka followed with a win in Game 3, tossing his famed gyroball on baseball's biggest stage;

Whereas left-hander Jon Lester completed a storybook comeback by overcoming adversity and leading his team to victory from the mound by pitching 5 and two-thirds scoreless innings, winning Game Four and completing the sweep;

Whereas Mike Lowell was named the Most Valuable Player of the World Series after batting .400 while scoring six runs and batting in four more, capping off a stellar regular season with an equally impressive post-season and capturing a richly deserved honor;

Whereas Jonathan Papelbon demonstrated complete dominance as the team's closer,